578. 1. *Government Animals.*—The year opened with 5 (4) stallions, 11 (13) mares and 5 (6) young stock. During the year, three foals were born and one mare died. One stallion, two mares and three young stock were sold. One stallion and one mare were destroyed on humanitarian and economic grounds. Two mares that were unfit for breeding were presented to the State's Armed Police.

579. 2. *"Ewe Blood Stock Scheme" animals.*—The year opened with 7 (9) mares and 8 (4) young stock. During the year, there were 3 (6) births. Four young stock were sold in public auction at Bombay and three mares were returned to the Bangalore Race Club as they were barren continuously and therefore unprofitable to maintain at Government cost.

580. 3. *Private owned animals.*—The year opened with 1 (1) stallion, 31 (19) mares and 12 (10) young stock. Two stallions and 11 mares were received excluding 15 (8) young stock born during the year. One stallion and two mares died. Seventeen (1) mares and 16 (6) young stock were returned to their owners leaving 2 (1) stallions, 23 (31) mares and 11 (12) young stock at the close of the year.

(vi) Forests.

581. The area of State Forests at the commencement and close of the year was 4,701·02 and 5,285·65 square miles respectively.

582. The year marked the merger of the seven taluks of Bellary District into Mysore State bringing with it 188·12 sq. miles of State Forests and 396·51 sq. miles of what are known as "Panchayet Forests" which are also notified under the same Section as that of the Reserve Forests and enjoy the same status.

583. Against the areas ordered to be disafforested during the year and in previous years, the following areas were actually released and handed over.—

Bangalore	District	... 876·14	Acres
Kolar	„	... 159·00	„
Chitaldrug	„	... 5,538·2	„
Mysore	„	... 9,140·1	„

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Demarcations.

584. All the existing 'D' lines were recleared, fire traced and maintained. The total expenditure under this including the pay of five patrols was Rs. 44,309-8-9.

Natural Regeneration.

585. Natural Regeneration of the important species was quite good in all the Forests as there was adequate rainfall during the year. In the Evergreen zone the natural regeneration of the principal species was good particularly in exploited areas. In the deciduous forests there was appreciable regeneration of mathi, honne, bite, yethiga, jambe in exploited coupes and protected areas. Sandal regeneration was fairly good in all the areas. Regeneration of small and big bamboos was good in all the Bomboo Forests especially in ceded areas.

Artificial Regeneration.

586. Artificial regeneration was resorted to in deciduous and dry zones where natural regeneration is generally poor.

Total area planted during the year.

No.	Particulars	Method of Planting	Area in Acres
1	Teak Planting ...	Stump planting ...	732
2	Planting fuel species		
	(a) Plantings ...		1,275*
	(b) Sowings ...	Trench mounds ...	938*
		Total ...	2,945

* Includes figures undertaken in the first five-year plan.

Nurseries.

587. As usual nurseries were maintained in all the Ranges not only to raise planting materials required for the departmental afforestation works, but also for the supply of plants to other departments, local bodies and general public for plantings on occasions like Vanamahotsava, His Highness's birthday, etc.,

Forest Offences.

588. At the time of merger of seven taluks of Bellary District files of 1,622 cases were handed over to the State. Of these, 303 cases were since transferred to Andhra State. Three hundred and twenty-six cases were detected in Bellary District since 1st October 1953, and with the disposal of 52 cases, there was a balance of 1,593 cases to be disposed of at the end of the year. Of these 1,593 cases, 872 cases were pending in Courts, 709 pending departmental action and 12 still under investigation.

589. Excluding the Bellary District, there were 381 cases pending disposal at the commencement of the year. Two thousand six-hundred and thirty-nine cases were added on during the year, and with the disposal of 2,637 cases, the number of cases pending disposal at the end of the year was 383, of which 240 cases were pending in the Courts.

590. Due to penalties inflicted, a sum of Rs. 86,432-15-0 was recovered as compensation, while the value of property seized and released was Rs. 24,121. In Bhadravathi, Shimoga and Sagar Divisions timber to the value of Rs. 19,624-13-0 calculated at seigniorage rates was confiscated.

591. Eight lakhs eighty two thousand eight hundred and fifty three cubic feet of logs, 23,080 teak ballies, 31,226 teak poles, 1,834 other kinds of poles and 4,191 balagi poles were collected. The disposals were by way of periodical auction sales, retail sales at sanctioned rates, supply to sister departments and Government and private industrial concerns. Eleven thousand cubic feet and 25,000 cubic feet of timber were supplied to Vidhana Soudha and Hindustan Aircraft Ltd., respectively. Under the Depressed Class Amelioration Scheme, arrangements were made to supply 2,200 doors and 4,400 windows at specially reduced rates to the Depressed Classes. Exploitation of Timber.

592. Owing to higher rates secured in the Thirupattoor auction held on 14th December 1953, the selling rates for sandalwood were stepped up a little. Extensive areas were dibbled with healthy sandal seeds free of cost by beat guards. One thousand seven hundred and sixty five acres were dibbled in different divisions. Sandalwood.

593. There were 129 cases pending at the beginning of the year. Forty-three cases were added on during the year bringing the total number of cases to be disposed of during the year to 172. Of these, only 45 cases were disposed of during the year leaving a balance of 127 cases at the close of the year.

594. The seasonal conditions were more favourable than last year. The total production of crude lac during the year was 354 maunds. Lac Section.

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Protection from cattle.

595. Except areas under regeneration and areas under special protection which are notified in the Gazette, the rest of the forest are thrown open for free grazing of cattle of the State, except in Bellary District where grazing is permitted only on prepaid licenses.

596. Due to scarcity of fodder round about Molakalmuru and Challakere Taluks on account of failure of rains, lopping of Kamara trees in Kamara Kaval of Molakalmuru Range was permitted during April and May 1954. The revenue realised during the year by issue of prepaid licenses in Bellary District, by sale of right of collecting grazing fees on foreign cattle at the Frontier Toll Gates and by issue of prepaid licenses on foreign cattle resorting for grazing into the forests of the State was Rs. 18,001.

Forest Research Laboratory.

597. The three different sections in the Laboratory *viz.*, Chemistry, Utilisation and Sylviculture continued to function during the year.

Elephants.

598. The menace of rodents to the newly planted teak stumps in Kalakoppa Plantation in Sagar Division continued during the year also. Considerable damage was caused by a small herd of wild elephants in Plantations towards Lakkavalli and Hebbe side.

599. At the beginning of the year there were 51 elephants including two calves. One calf was born during the year. Elephant Kaveri died on 17th May 1953 and two calves, Bharathi and calf of Prabhavathi were sold. There were at the end of the year 49 elephants including one calf.

600. Khedda operations were staged at Kakankote in the cold season, December 1953. A record catch of 77 elephants was made. Of these, eleven female calves were delivered to the Superintendent, Zoo Gardens for purposes of exchange of wild animals to the Zoo from foreign countries. Twenty-three were sold in open auction and 22 were sold on negotiations.

Shikars.

601. Twenty shikar arrangements were made for His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore, Royal Party and distinguished guests during the year.

Kunbi Settlements.

602. The scheme was extended for a period of five years from 11th September 1952. The total population of the settlement was 614. The settlers rendered useful

service to the department in clearing 'D' lines and Plantation lines, weeding of Plantations, raising new plantations and cultural operations.

603. The village improvement system introduced to create amenities to lambanies and sholigars of Chamrajanagar Taluk in Kolipalya and other forest villages was functioning well. The amelioration of the condition of the tribal classes—the sholigars and the kurubars—by inducing them to take up to permanent cultivation instead of shifting cultivation as at present is engaging the attention of both the State and Central Governments. A Centre has been established at Budipadaga where the sholigars have been chiefly established to study their conditions and render them all assistance in the way of free supplies of clothing, etc., Kurubars continued to receive the patronage of the department, throughout the year. They rendered yeoman's service as usual during the kheddas and were in great measure responsible for the success of the operations. Sholigars, Kurubars and lambanies.

604. The number of forest villages remained unaltered. With a view to finding out the exact areas under cultivation action was taken to get the areas surveyed and phoded by the Forest Survey Party. Forest villages.

605. The areas under village forests remained unaltered. Many of these forests have been given away for cultivation by the Revenue authorities. Under the Community Project Scheme it is proposed to take up raising of new plantations in the villages served by the Community Project in Sagar Division. Village Forests.

606. One hundred and eighty-seven acres in Chikmagalur Division and 140·28 acres in Hassan district continued to be under cardamom cultivation. An extent of 1,190·45 acres of land continued to be under Military occupation in Bangalore District. Lease of Forest Lands.

607. The department participated as usual in the Dasara Exhibition at Mysore and at the Congress Exhibition in Bangalore. The department was the recipient of a Gold Medal for its display. Exhibitions.

608. The first meeting of the standing committee of the Board of Forestry, and that of the Central Soil conservation Board met at Datia in February 1954 for reviewing the progress made on the recommendations of the Board General.

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at its meeting in May 1953. The Minister for Agriculture is a member on the Standing Committee. The need for a liberal grant under soil conservation to extend the scheme of afforestation of waste lands to all the dry districts of the State and the reorganisation of the Forest Research Laboratory as a regional Research Centre for the South was placed before the Committee.

609. The first meeting of the State Committee for Wild Life met in June 1953 under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister. The implementation of the several recommendations of the Indian Board for Wild Life was considered. A small sub-committee was formed to examine and report to the State-Committee the several subjects that came up for discussion particularly with reference to the absolute protection to be imparted to certain animals, revision of Game laws to bring into a standard with the laws existing in other parts of India, with particular reference to the Bombay Game Act, propaganda and education on wild Life, etc.,

610. With a view to meet the increasing demand for firewood both from urban and rural areas, it is proposed to raise annually 1,000 acres of fast growing fuel plantations under the direct supervision of a special Division.

611. The following four Development schemes of the department included in the Five-Year Plan were continued during the year:—

1. Central Sylvicultural Research Station, Bangalore.
2. Afforestation of waste lands.
3. Formation of Cinchona Plantation and
4. Lac Cultivation.

The total revenue of the department amounted to Rs. 1,01,10,349 inclusive of Sandal Oil net receipts.

(vii) Marketing Department.

612. One lakh two hundred and forty-nine (77,448) units of weights and measures were presented for testing of which 95,836 (70,624) units of weights and measures were certified for correctness. A total sum of Rs. 14,458 (10,406) was realised as testing fees during the year.